

# ESSENTIAL BASS LINE CREATION GUIDE



SCOTT'S  
**BASS LESSONS**





## ESSENTIAL BASS LINE CREATION GUIDE

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Starting point: 00:12

### EX.1 JAM AT THE START OF THE LESSON

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Chords: C, C/E, F, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/E, F, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/E, F, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/E, F, G<sup>7</sup>

Bass Line (Fretboard):

Measure 1: C (Bass line: 3 3 0)

Measure 2: C/E (Bass line: 1 1 2 3 2 5 3 5)

Measure 3: F (Bass line: 5 2 3 0)

Measure 4: G<sup>7</sup> (Bass line: 9 10 9 10 10 8 7 8)

Measure 5: C (Bass line: 7 8 10 10 7 9 10 8 6)

Measure 6: C/E (Bass line: 7 8 0 5 5 0 X)

Measure 7: F (Bass line: 1 1 2 3 2 5 3 4)

Measure 8: G<sup>7</sup> (Bass line: 5 2 3 0 X 0 1)

Measure 9: C (Bass line: 5 2 3 0 X 6 5 4 5 4)

Measure 10: C/E (Bass line: 3 5 3 0 3 4 4 2)

Measure 11: F (Bass line: 1 1 2 3 2 5 3 4)

Measure 12: G<sup>7</sup> (Bass line: 5 6 6 4 3 2)

ETC

### CHORD PROGRESSION

C C/E F G<sup>7</sup>

I IV V

03:16

### C MAJOR SCALE

8 10 7 8 10 7 9 10 9 7 10 8 7 10 8

"There's a chord built from every note of the C major scale".

### C MAJOR SCALE PLAYED AS CHORDS

03:30

I II III IV V VI VII I

4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 1 2 3 1 2 4 1 3 1 2 4 1 2

4 2 3 5 3 5 7 5 7 9 7 8 10 9 10 12 10 12 14 12 14 16 14 15

07:40

### BASS LINE USING ROOTS ONLY

C C/E F G<sup>7</sup> C C/E F G<sup>7</sup>

3 x 3 0 x 1 x 3 5 3 3 0 1 3

ETC

12:19

**ADDING THE 5TH ABOVE THE ROOT NOTE***"The shape is always the same".*

**C** **F** **G<sup>7</sup>** **ETC**

TAB: 3 5 3 5 | 3 5 3 5 | 5 7 5 7

**EX.2 ADDING THE 5TH BELOW THE ROOT NOTE**

**C** **F** **G<sup>7</sup>** **ETC**

TAB: 3 3 3 3 | 3 3 3 3 | 5 5 5 5

**14:19 BASS LINE USING ROOTS AND 5THS ONLY**

**C** **C/E** **F** **G<sup>7</sup>** **C** **C/E** **F** **G<sup>7</sup>** **sim**

TAB: 3 5 0 2 0 | 1 3 3 5 | 3 5 2 5 | 1 3 3 5 | 3 5 0 0 | 1 3 3 5

TAB: 3 5 0 0 | 1 3 3 3 | 3 3 5 3 0 x

TAB: 1 3 x 3 5 5 5 3 | 3 5 2 0 | 8 10 8 10 12 12 10

**ETC**

16:33

OVER THE C/E CHORD YOU CAN STILL USE THE 5TH NOTE OF C MAJOR.

**C/E**

**C MAJOR TRIAD**

**F MAJOR TRIAD**

**G7 TRIAD**

19:27

**BASS LINE USING ROOTS AND 5THS**

**C C/E F G7 C C/E**

**F G7 C C/E F G7**

ETC

20:26 **EX.3 BASS LINE USING TRIAD**

Chords: C, C/E, F, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/E, F, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/E

Chords: F, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/E, F, G<sup>7</sup>

ETC

23:16 **C MAJOR 7TH ARPEGGIO**

24:08 **F MAJOR 7TH ARPEGGIO**

24:19 **G DOMINANT 7TH ARPEGGIO**

25:44 **C HARMONIC CHORD**

## EX.4 JAM AT THE END OF THE LESSON

Chords: C, C/E, F, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/E

Chords: F<sup>#</sup>, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/E, F, G<sup>7</sup>

Chords: C, C/E, F, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/E

Chords: F, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/E, F, G<sup>7</sup>

Chords: C, C/E, F, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/E

Chords: F, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C/E

ETC



## ESSENTIAL BASS LINE CREATION GUIDE

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So you're a bass player, right? But did you ever wonder, *what's the role of a bass player?* It's easier to define with guitar and piano/keyboard players for instance. They play chords throughout the song and then if needed they might take a solo. Simple. Learn chords, learn how to solo, job done!

*But what about bass players!?*

Well, here's the deal. We have to do exactly the same thing.

Let's get rid of the soloing part of the equation for now. That's for another day. Let's focus on "the chords"

So as I stated above, guitarists and keyboardists will play the chords throughout a song. As bass players we must also represent the chords in the song, this is commonly known as "outlining the chords", but instead of playing all the notes of the chord at once like a guitarist might do, we play the notes of the chord one at a time.

*But how do we know the notes of each of the chords!?*

Easy, we learn our arpeggios.

The word arpeggio tends to make things sound a little more complicated than they are. All an arpeggio is a chord played one note at a time. So if you learn all your arpeggios, you've learned all your chords! Essentially, you're ready to rock (or jazz, or country, or whatever else does it for you right now) ;)



But here's the gag. Learning and putting your arpeggios into use isn't easy, it takes practice and dedication to master all of the chord types over the entire fretboard. It should be one of your "big goals" and when you master them it will give you endless possibilities of bass lines and solos. The arpeggios in my opinion are one of the most important things you can ever be working on, so I really recommend you work on these daily or at least when your practice schedule permits.

I talk about the arpeggios (also know as chord tones) and why they are so important all of the time with the members of the SBL Academy. In fact, I they're probably sick of me saying it... "Learn your chord tones, learn your chord tones!" I'm like a broken record ;) ... but I mean it. If you do this it will have a dramatic effect on your bass playing and overall musicianship in a big way.

In this lesson I take a simple chord sequence and show you exactly how I'm using arpeggios (chord tones) to build my bass lines. I start super simple, just with root notes. I then start adding in the other elements of the arpeggios like 3rds and 5ths, and then finally introduce chromatic notes into the mix.

This lesson will give you a great insight into how to create bass lines using arpeggios and other devices such as chromatic passing tones.

## **YOUR ACTION PLAN**

Your plan for this lesson is unbelievably simple.

I want you to work through this lesson slowly, making sure you can understand and apply whichever concept I'm covering before moving onto the next. I should say - feel free to watch the entire lesson to start with, as it'll give you a good idea of what you're aiming for.



Once you can confidently use the approaches I covered within the lesson I want you to start using these techniques on other chord progressions, then go through the same sequence for each of those progressions i.e. start with the roots and build all the way up to chromatic approach notes.

I recommend using shorter chord progressions to start with, around 4 to 8 bars long. This will keep you focused on getting the most out of each chord. You could work on anything from 2 to 4 new chord sequences at a time, but I wouldn't take it any further than that to start with as we want to have laser focus on what we're aiming for - Ultimate control and visualisation of the chord tones over the entire fingerboard.

## **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR LEVEL**

### **Beginners:**

It's really going to help you to watch this entire tutorial so you can get a feel for how bass lines are created with the minimal amount of information. If you're just starting out you will be getting bombarded with scales, modes, arpeggios, chord tones and a host of other different thing. This guide strips all of that away and focuses on the fundamentals of how you can get going with the minimal amount of friction. Take your time, make notes, and have fun.

### **Intermediate Bass Players:**

So you have a basic understanding of the modes, scales and arpeggios but are a little confused about how to apply them. This guide will help you start to understand how powerful the fundamentals can be - I want you to refocus on the fundamentals so you can begin to have *total control* over what elements your creating your bass lines with. Most of the students who I've worked with constantly get caught up in the next shiny object - now is

the time to rid yourself of this magpie syndrome mentality and focus on how to create great bass lines off the cuff with a minimal amount of brain gymnastics.

### **Advanced Bass Players:**

You have a great understanding of the modes, scales and chord tones. It will be beneficial for you to watch the entire guide - not only to refocus on the actual key fundamentals of bass line creation, but also to watch this method in action. You can use it with your own students, and it will get great results 110% of the time.

For your own bass playing I also want you to concentrate on the last few minutes of this tutorial starting from 25minutes 48 seconds into the video. Specifically focus on my note placement with the groove and how I'm pushing and pulling the phrases and chords over the bar lines. Again, with this example I'm only using simple fundamentals but am pushing the boundaries with simple chromatic substitutions and chord displacements. I recommend learning to play this entire last section of the tutorial - all the TAB and notation is provided in the workbook. After you can play along, you should also analyse exactly what's happening harmonically so you can see how simple this approach is.

As always, see you in the shed...

Scott :)

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